GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:618
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
REORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to reorient the agricultural education to make it relevant to the new challenges in the context of globalisation;

(b) if so, the details of concrete steps Government propose to take in this direction;

(c) whether the inadequate knowledge on agricultural education is posing serious concern on various agricultural issues; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to face the challenges in agricultural education and improve the quality?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 618 REGAR `REORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION` TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH MAY, 2003 IN LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b) : Agricultural education is a State subject and the fundamental responsibility to support education lies with the State Governments. However, the ICAR as an Apex body at the national level is involved in the process of planning, undertaking, aiding, promoting and co-ordinating agriculture education in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Agriculture University (CAU) and Deemed Universities (DUs). Keeping this in view, it is providing supplementary support for updating & bringing uniformity in academic curricula of various degree programmes, support for modernization of laboratories and infrastructural development, strengthening of instructional farms, computerization, faculty competence improvement, students` educational tours, establishment of counselling and placement cell and strengthening partnership between scientific institutions, industries and rural development institutions etc.

(c) & (d): Education is a dynamic process and to keep pace with national and global developments, ICAR in collaboration with SAUs, DUs, and CAU is continuously striving to maintain quality of education. The ICAR is supporting SAUs to develop excellence and towards this end the Council has established an Accreditation Board. The Board has implemented an accreditation process which is comprehensive, rigorous and periodic. All these efforts are expected to improve and sustain the quality and relevance of Agricultural Education in the country to face future challenges.